varieties can be used for either parent and can be selfed as well. Without much background in genetics, and with a job to do, large and healthy family to feed, I learned precious little each season. I should say here that authoritative agencies could help greatly in making compatibility studies in hibiscus, there is so much in this area that we amateurs do not know.

Another problem was in the length of time that it takes a seedling to bloom and then prove themselves. While the orchid grower will be amused by my lack of patience, I find it difficult to wait two years to see the first bloom on a seedling, and then keep it under observation for three years if it appears desirable, before it can be considered ready for release. I have jumped the gun in a few cases and have been sorry of it. The two year period could be cut down if the seedlings were forced under glass, but for our conditions, this would not be a true test.

In Hawaii, and to a certain extent in Florida, most breeders cross two plants with perfect blooms, and then get a large percentage of desirable hybrids. Because of climatic conditions that rule in these areas, particularly Hawaii, little thought must be given to hardiness of plant and root structure. Also, the first objective is to get a large, outstanding bloom for show purposes, while here I am trying for other qualities. As a result, the Hawaiian fanciers would call many of my better ones "primitive" blooms, even though I find only about five out of a hundred seedlings worthy of further testing.

In this connection, I have only recently observed that the first bloom on almost all seedlings will set seed, if pollenized. It has been the accepted idea that only older plants will set seed readily. Because of this, I can speed up my work and get earlier results in the future. To get seed, I must reverse the blooming period of my plants. It is impossible to get seed in the summer when the necessary temperature range of 70° - 75° cannot be maintained without

air-conditioning. I cut my plants back in July and August, so they are forced into bloom in December and January. I do my crossing from January through May and at this time all of my plants are placed outside, so I can clean up my greenhouse.

Old Jack Frost, whom I am determined to lick eventually, dealt me a hard blow early in my program. By 1949, I had nearly an acre of seedlings on my place and several hundred named varieties. The prolonged cold spell that year really separated the men from the boys, and left me precious few plants and quite a few bills. I did find some hardy seedlings that survived and these have been the principal bases for my hybrids since that time. It was necessary, however, that I give up testing on my ranch and confine my efforts to my greenhouse at my home place in the Hollywood Hills. There, I have carried on a limited program, growing and observing about 300 seedlings each year, not enough to make much headway, but I have a few good ones that will be tested at the arboretum. But I have recorded all of my crosses, so that over the years, I have complete data on my project.

I began to send some of my selections to friends in Florida in 1950, as I did not have space and time to test them, nor did the local nursery folk show any interest in new varieties. As a result, many of my varieties, as the A.H.S. Nomenclature List will show, have become established in Florida. Then, beginning with my 1954-55 seed crop, I sent 500 seedlings to a group of folks in Ft. Myers, Florida, who formed a project for the purpose of blooming my hybrids. Accordingly, until I began to plant my seedlings at the Arboretum, most of my varieties have been principally grown in Florida.

That's about the extent of my story; I have purposely not gone into the culture of hibiscus because I feel that this has been amply covered by others.

THE END